

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00498 141737Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/072 W

-----104421 150324Z /75

R 141723Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 165

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0498

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: CLARK BRINGS TORY MESSAGE TO MONTREAL

1. JOE CLARK OPENED THE PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE CAMPAIGN IN MONTREAL YESTERDAY WITH A LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO THE CANADIAN CLUB -- BUT LIKENED HIS COMING TO QUEBEC TO "TRUDEAU'S RECENT FAREWELL TOUR OF THE PRAIRIES".

2. HEAD TABLE WAS WHO'S WHO OF QUEBEC TORIES: PETER BLAIKIE (PC CANDIDATE FOR LACHINE), ROCH LASALLE (MP FOR JOLIETTE), BRIAN MULRONEY AND MICHAEL MEIGHEN. LOUIS DESMARAIS, PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN CLUB OF MONTREAL AND RUMORED PC ASPIRANT, CONFIRMED HIS ALLEGIANCE IN INTRODUCTORY ALLUSION TO CLARK'S ELECTION TO LEADERSHIP OF "OUR" PARTY. NOTABLE ABSENTEES: HEWARD GRAFFTEY AND CLAUDE WAGNER.

3. SPEECH WAS UPBEAT -- "WE WILL WIN," "GLAD TO SEE SO MANY OUTSTANDING PEOPLE HERE WANTING TO BE ON OUR TICKET," ETC. -- AND SOLID WITH ECONOMIC PROPOSALS (NONE NEW) THAT TORIES WOULD FUFFILL. TO WIT, FREEZE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, TURNING OVER CERTAIN CROWN CORPORATIONS (E.G. PETROCAN) TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY, UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS OVER INDUSTRY, REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING, AND IMPROVEMENT OF PARLIAMENT'S CONTROL OF SPENDING. THESE MOVES DESIGNED TO RESTORE CANADA'S LOST CONFIDENCE.

4. ON THE UNITY FRONT, CLARK ENDORSED CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM THAT WOULD GIVE THE PROVINCE MUCH GREATER IN NATIONAL

AFFAIRS BEFORE POLICIES ARE SET. HE WOULD ENSURE NATION-WIDE REPRESENTATION IN HIS GOVERNMENT BY APPOINTING QUEBECKERS TO THE SENATE IF TOO FEW ARE ELECTED TO THE HOUSE.

5. SPEECH WAS WARMLY RECEIVED, INTERRUPTED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BY APPRECIATIVE LAUGHTER OR APPLAUSE. PRESS COVERAGE MIXED: BOTH ANGLOPHONE PAPERS, THE GAZETTE AND MONTREAL STAR, GAVE RATHER BRIEF RESUME ON PAGE 4 AND 6, RESPECTIVELY, WHILE FRANCOPHONE LE DEVOIR FRONT-PAGED EXTENSIVE RECAPITULATION OF ALL MAJOR POINTS.

HARPER

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TAGS: PINT, CA, (CLARK, JOE)
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